THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. As per the quick estimates of Index of Industrial Production released by Central Statistical Organization (CSO) on 11th August, 2000, the overall growth rate of industry during April-June 2000-2001 was 5.4% as against 5.7% during the corresponding period in 1999-2000. The details of growth as per use-based classification are as under:

Index of Industrial Production — (Use-Based Classification)
Base: 1993-94 100

Growth over the corresponding period of the previous year

(In percentage)

	Weight	April-June	
		1999-2000	2000-2001
Basic Goods	355.12	3.3	5.5
Capital Goods	96.87	10.6	0.0
Intermediate Goods	264.39	10.5	4.0
Consumer Goods	283.62	2.1	8.5
Consumer Durables	51.15	13.0	23.9
Consumer-non-Durables	232.47	—0.6	4.1
Overall Industry	**1000.00**	**5.7**	**5.4**

The above table indicates that there has been a marginal decline in the growth of industry during the first quarter of this year. Some sectors of industry like consumer durables, consumer-non-durables and basic goods have posted remarkable growth while some have posted slow-down during the current quarter. Therefore, it is incorrect to say that most of the industrial sectors of the country have gone down during the current quarter.

Foreign Investment in minerals in Bihar and Gujarat

2967. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any initiative to attract foreign investment in the field of minerals in Bihar and Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the investors in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) In the mineral sector, the Government policy allows 100% foreign direct investment on the automatic route for all minerals (except diamonds and precious stones). This covers exploration, mining, mineral processing and metallurgy. In the case of diamonds and precious stones, foreign equity upto 74% is allowed on the automatic route for both exploration and mining operations. Proposals seeking higher than 74% foreign equity are considered by the Government for approval. The Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 has also been suitably amended and further powers have been delegated to the State Governments. These initiatives cover Bihar and Gujarat also.

(c) and (d) Government has so far approved 65 proposals for foreign direct investment in the mining sector. The likely investment in these cases will be about Rs. 3650 crore. After obtaining approval the investors are required to apply to the concerned State Governments, which are the owners of minerals in their respective territorial jurisdictions, for mineral concessions. The data relating to mineral concessions are not centrally maintained.

Difference in Export and Import

†2968. DR. D. MASTHAN:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to difference in export and import, foreign countries, earn more foreign currency as compared to India;

(b) if so, the difference in the export import during first three months of financial year 2000-2001; and

(c) the increase in the demand of foreign dollars for the importers of the country during this period in comparison to the last three months of the last year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) As per the DGCI&S provisional data India's exports for the period April-June, 2000-2001 has been to the tune of US $ 10194.34 million as compared to the performance of US $ 7986.28 million during the same period last year. This has lead to an increased trade deficit of US $ 2982.75 million

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.